Wheat production

†592. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of wheat has declined constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total production of wheat during this period; and

(c) the efforts made by Government during the last three years to boost the production of wheat and the extent of success achieved by Government in these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Following table shows the production of wheat during 2004-05 to 2006-07:

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)
2004-05	68.64
2005-06	69.35
2006-07*	74.89

* 4th advance estimates as on 19.07.2007

The production of wheat shows an increasing trend during 2004-05 to 2006-07.

(c) In order to increase the production of wheat in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat)" with effect from October 2000 is under implementation. The States included in the scheme are Uttar Pradesh (Western), Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan. The scheme is implemented on 90:10 percentage sharing basis between Government of India and the States. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement, production of certified seeds, etc. Besides, demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers' fields on 100 per cent assistance. Due to such efforts, production of wheat has reached the level of 74.89 million tonnes during 2006-07, the highest since 2000-01.

Biotechnology Coordination Board to monitor GM crops

593. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the States to set up State Level Biotechnology Coordination Board to monitor the GM crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.